

Application No. 10/648,864
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 4, 7-10, 19 and 20 is respectfully acknowledged.

New independent claims 21, 25 and 37 correspond respectively to the subject matter of allowable claims 4, 7 and 8 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their parent claim 1.

New claims 22, 26, and 38 correspond to the subject matter of original claim 2 depending from claims 21, 25 and 37, respectively, and new claims 23, 27 and 39 correspond to the subject matter of original claim 3 depending from claims 21, 25 and 37, respectively.

New claims 24, 30 and 40 have been prepared to depend from claims 21, 25 and 37, respectively, based on the subject matter of original claims 11 and 12.

New claim 28 has been added to recite two optical path switching units, as shown in Fig. 9.

And new claims 29 and 31-36 correspond to the subject matter of original claims 10 and 13-18 depending from claim 25.

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No new matter has been added, and no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised.

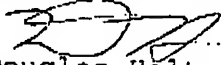
Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that new claims 21-40 be approved and entered, and it is respectfully submitted that new independent claims 21, 25 and 37, and claims 22-24, 26-36 and 38-40 respectively depending therefrom, are all in condition for immediate allowance.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


Douglas Holtz
Reg. No. 33,902

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.
767 Third Avenue - 25th Floor
New York, New York 10017-2023
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
Fax No. (212) 319-5101

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